

MONTANA STATE SENATE
2007 LEGISLATURE

WITNESS STATEMENT

NAME Walt HillADDRESS P.O. Box 565HOME PHONE 1022-6563 WORK PHONE 243-5140REPRESENTING Seeley LakeAPPEARING ON WHICH BILL HB 524DO YOU: SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐ AMEND ☐

COMMENTS (OPTIONAL):

see attached.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Madam Chairman, Members of the Local Government Committee

My name is Walt Hill, and I reside in the Seeley Lake area. There are some of us in the area that have been asking what would be necessary to incorporate our city. As we have looked through the statutes, from the reading of MCA §7-2-4101 we find that a density of at least 500 inhabitants per square mile would be necessary. For a small, rural community such as ours, where the checkerboard platting of the land makes contiguous, high-density areas almost non-existent, the density requirement becomes a major impediment to incorporation. By reducing this value to the proposed 200 inhabitant per square mile of land area, it makes it much more feasible to create a community that includes most of the inhabitants in the valley. It will also allow better community planning and reduce the need for annexation in the future.

Although it is not certain that the community will vote for incorporation, the reduced density requirement makes it much more feasible to do so. We would appreciate your support of this measure.